

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 920

By West

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Teresa Miller Dennis of Ruby Major Elementary School on her selection as the 2007 National Distinguished Principal.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding educational administrators who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Teresa Miller Dennis is one such estimable educational administrator who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, the principal of Ruby Major Elementary School, Teresa Dennis was recently selected as the 2007 National Distinguished Principal by the National Association of Elementary Schools Principals and the U.S. Department of Education, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a principal as it recognizes the positive influence she has had on so many lives; and

WHEREAS, the second Tennessean to receive this prestigious title since its inception in 1983, Mrs. Dennis was chosen from a field of nominees representing public schools in all fifty states, six private schools, and three schools operated by the Department of Defense for children of American military personnel stationed in foreign countries; and

WHEREAS, Teresa Dennis has served with acumen and alacrity as the principal of Ruby Major Elementary School since its opening in 2005, and prior to that she contributed her remarkable leadership as principal of Percy Priest Elementary School for six years, and assistant principal at Amqui Elementary School for three years; in addition, this dedicated educator rendered twenty-two years of sterling service in the classroom teaching grades kindergarten through sixth; and

WHEREAS, a native Nashvillian, Teresa Dennis attended Stanford Elementary School and Two Rivers High School; no doubt influenced by the quality teachers of her childhood, Mrs. Dennis has stated that she knew from a young age that she would be a teacher; and

WHEREAS, she received degrees in special education and elementary education from George Peabody College for Teachers, and later earned her Master's degree and Educational Specialist's degree in administration and supervision from Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated professional, Mrs. Dennis has lent her time and talents to numerous educational and community organizations; she has served for twelve years on the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Principals Association in a variety of capacities, including as president, and she holds membership in the Delta Kappa Gamma Society, the Metro Nashville Elementary Principals Association, and the Donelson Hermitage Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, she also serves on a task force charged with identifying the ways and means of improving the quality of public education for all of Tennessee's children; and

WHEREAS, highly respected by her peers, Mrs. Dennis won the Delta Kappa Gamma Award for Distinctive Service to Education in 2005, received the Tennessee Principals Association's Meritorious Service award in 2006, the same year she was honored with the title of Metro Nashville Principal of the Year, and she was a finalist for the State Department of Education Principal of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Teresa Dennis is an active and devout member of Hermitage Hills Baptist Church, which she has served faithfully for many years as a preschool teacher; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Dennis is an extremely talented and compassionate administrator who works assiduously to motivate her students, teachers, and staff to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, she truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues, faculty, staff, and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, professional achievements aside, Mrs. Dennis is most grateful for the love and companionship of her husband, Mike Dennis, who is a teacher and coach at McGavock

High School; together they are the proud parents of Dr. Chris Dennis, and twin daughters, Rachel and Rebecca; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Dennis truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated principal who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Teresa Miller Dennis of Ruby Major Elementary School upon being chosen as the 2007 National Distinguished Principal by the National Association of Elementary Schools Principals and the U.S. Department of Education, commend her exceptional service to the students and schools of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.